



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,710	02/09/2004	Joseph B. Kaul	28570/39829A	9545
4743	7590	09/08/2005	EXAMINER	
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			SAFAVI, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3673	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JL

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/774,710

Applicant(s)

KAUL ET AL.

Examiner

M. Safavi

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 38 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21,22,27,28,33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 23-26,29-32 and 35-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the present abstract does not present a concise statement of the full technical disclosure of the patent application *including any processes or methods*. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown '755 in view of Benson et al.

Brown '755 discloses, Fig. 1, a method of lining a surface with a geosynthetic liner 14 utilizing a dispenser 10 having base 18/46, with a chassis or carriage 40/74/78 mounted upon the base. A pair of cradle rollers is at 74 supporting the geosynthetic roll 42. Guide roller is at end of 78. Brown '755 desires an appropriate overlap between sheets of material when placed on the ground.

Benson et al. discloses, Figs. 3 and 4, a dispenser for roll of material having movable base 16, with a chassis or carriage transversely movable, (by actuator), upon the base, lines 4-6 of the abstract and col. 1, lines 50-65. Benson also discloses a pair of cradle rollers 33, 34, guide roller 24 or 25, and a pair of adjustable alignment arms as can be seen in upper portion of Fig. 3.

To have provided the apparatus of Brown '755 with a transversely movable carriage, (by actuator means), thus allowing for an appropriate overlap of material along either side of the truck, would have constituted an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Benson et al. With such a modification of Brown '755 one of ordinary skill in the art would be allowed to place any multiple number of geosynthetic rolls with a single dispenser while assuring the desired overlap between adjacently positioned rolls. As such, it would have been a further obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to lay a second layer of geosynthetic material in overlapping fashion with respect to a previously laid geosynthetic material particularly since Brown '755 desires an appropriate overlap between sheets of material when placed on the ground.

Claims 23-26, 29-32, and 35-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 20, 2005 have been considered. Applicant's arguments against the rejections involving Cardinal, Jr. are persuasive and the rejections involving Cardinal, Jr. have been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (571) 272-7049. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL SAFAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 354

M. Safavi
August 30, 2005